

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

40. (New) A universal coupler for coupling a signal through a first wave guide configured for a first polarization and a second wave guide configured for a second polarization comprising a plate having a thickness along an axis longitudinal to the first and second wave guides substantially equal to one quarter wavelength of the signal and an aperture configured for a polarization different from both said first and second polarizations, wherein the aperture is defined by two side walls parallel with a plane oblique to the first and second polarizations.

41. (New) The coupler of Claim 40 wherein said first and second polarizations are the same.

42. (New) The coupler of Claim 40 wherein said first and second polarizations are different; and

wherein the polarization of said coupler is substantially at the midpoint of said difference in polarization.

43. (New) A polarization plate for a signal having a wave length λ and one of two orthogonal polarizations comprising a waveguide having a length of approximately $1/4\lambda$, the physical configuration of said waveguide being associated with a polarization midway between said two orthogonal polarizations, wherein the physical configuration of the wave guide includes a continuous unobstructed aperture defined by two side walls parallel with a plane oblique to said two orthogonal polarizations.

44. (New) A waveguide system for a signal having a predetermined wavelength comprising:

a first waveguide physically configured for a signal having one of two orthogonal polarizations;

a second waveguide physically configured for a signal having one of the same two orthogonal polarizations; and,

a polarization plate intermediate said first and second waveguides, said polarization plate having a thickness of approximately one quarter of said wavelength and a slot intermediate said two orthogonal polarizations;

wherein the slot continuously extends between the first and second wave guides along a longitudinal axis and is oblique to the two orthogonal polarizations.